

FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

ALLIANCE NOTES.

—Hand this paper to some railroad employee.

—Gold-baselines tell us that greenback money is irredeemable. Preachers tell us that the righteous need no redemption, only the sinner. The greenback is the savior of the bank note. Who prefers the sinner to the savior?—*Iowa Tribune*.

—Intrinsic value is no more an essential to make money good than corporeality is to make a healthy man. It is not the bulk nor the value of the bulk that makes money, but the price on it of the government which makes it pay public and private dues.—*Alliance Herald*.

—Tom Watson, and other alliance-men, refused to go into the speaker-ship democratic caucus, for which they were denounced as rascals, traitors, and Judases. Now the eastern anti-silver democrats declare they will not enter a democratic silver caucus, and not a word of criticism is heard. Bah!—*Weekly Teller*.

—Under free coinage, gold and silver dollars could not get much apart in bullion value, and never did, because the legal tender power of each dollar kept their bullion values near each other. But democrities either dollar and its bullion value can and does fall considerably below that of the other.—*Emporia Gazette*.

—Napoleon's theory was to divide an

NO MORE PLANKS.

The Omaha Convention Must Not Add Any to the St. Louis Platform.

We notice some of our exchanges are talking about certain additional planks which they want added to the platform at Omaha. Now, gentlemen, stop and think a moment. The St. Louis conference was composed of accredited delegates from all the principal industrial organizations of this country. They assembled for the purpose of formulating a basis of agreement upon which all could unite politically. They succeeded, and all agreed to abide by the platform that has been promulgated. While that platform may not contain all that some individuals, and perhaps a large number of them, may wish that it contained, it must be remembered that in forming a basis of agreement between so many organizations, concessions were necessary; and only those things could be incorporated which all could agree to. As that platform now stands every organization represented at St. Louis will stand by it and vote for the candidates who may be named at Omaha. If other planks are added at Omaha, some of these organizations will have the opportunity to say we never agreed to these, and are under no obligations to stand by them; and they will be fully justified in this position.

We hope those who are agitating the question of more planks in the platform will think seriously of these things. One of the greatest dangers with which we are now confronted lies in the direction indicated. The Omaha

APPRECIATION OF MONEY.

"The Dollar Will Buy More Than Ever Before."

Before the house committee on agriculture recently, where Mr. Pillsbury was making an argument that but for the fictitious dealing on boards of trade farm products would bear a better price, Mr. Lewis asked: "Isn't money worth more than ever?" Mr. Pillsbury replied: "I think as a whole the dollar will buy more goods now than ever."

That is true undoubtedly, and that is what we have been for years trying to get plutocracy to admit. "The dollar will buy more than ever it would before." We want every farmer and laborer to take that as a text and preach out his own sermon from it, and when he is done preaching we want him to get down and pray for sense enough to see what effect that condition of things has upon him and his family, and for independence and self-asserted manhood enough to come out on his own side and work for better conditions.

"The dollar will buy more than it ever would before." That is a rich harvest, fat and plenty, for the man that has the dollar, but it is the parched earth, leanness and starvation for the man that has things to sell for the dollar. It is all right for the man that has a fixed salary, interest and coupons, but the man whose muscle or whose soil must produce something to buy the dollar, is "in the soup" without spoon or ladle. That is the very condition of things of all others to enable

TO RAILROAD EMPLOYEES.

What Do You Expect to Gain By Antagonizing the People's Party?

The interrogatories which form the caption of this article are addressed particularly to railroad employees.

In a broad sense the law makers of the country, whether found in legislatures or in congress, are partisans. The term, as used in this connection, is not intended to be in any sense offensive.

Where there is free speech and a free press there will be parties. It is inevitable, and of this result we indulge in no complaints.

"In old colony times, when we lived under a king," there were parties. There was a party that favored British taxation without representation, and a party opposed to such taxation. Hence the anti-tea party, that was organized in Boston, a party that boarded a ship loaded with tea and emptied the cargo into Boston bay, which gave rise to an old battle song of which the following, as we recollect, was a stanza:

"Johnny Bull and many more,
Soon they say are coming over,
And when they reach our shore
They must have their tea.
So Johnny put the kettle on,
Be sure to blow the fire strong,
And load your cannon, every one,
With strong gunpowder tea."

During the revolution the whig and tory parties existed, next the republican and federalists; after these came the democratic and whig parties; then the democratic, whig and abolition parties; later the democratic and republican parties, with here and there a prohibition party. At this writing there are three parties in the field, the democratic, the republican and the people's party, the latter sometimes being referred to as "the Farmers' Alliance," and which at the same time claims to be a labor party, or the workingmen's party.

If we were to be guided in our estimate of parties, predicated upon professions expressed immediately prior to an election, we should be compelled to aver that all political parties are deeply concerned about the welfare of labor—that their solicitude for the happiness and prosperity of workingmen absorbs a large per cent of their thoughts, and that they are ceaselessly wrestling with the subjects, how best to promote the interests of men whose labor pays all interest, taxes and revenues, and keeps the world from stagnation and decay.

This system of profession, chicanery, duplicity and hypocrisy has been practiced for years and has inspired many a time, workingmen.

"With hopes, that but sure to fly,
With joys, that vanish while he sighs,
Live Dead-Sea trusts, that tempt the eye,
But turn to ashes at the close."

Here and there, now and then, the claims of workingmen have been recognized and laws have been placed on the statute books which modified some outrage that had fastened itself upon our Christian—savage jurisprudence, a relic of barbarism and a legacy from the dead past, those dark and damned ages when, in judicial parlance, it was always "master and servant," or "master and slave," but never "man and man;" when no workingman, either in court or out of court, sought to have any right restored or respected, which had been cloven down by his "master."

The world of workers took hope when the declaration of independence declared that "all men are created equal," and the day on which it was first read is a national holiday wherever float the stars and stripes, and he shouts:

"Forever float the standard sheet!
Where breathes the foe but falls before us,
With freedom's soil beneath our feet,
And freedom's banner waving o'er us."

But the question arises, over whom does the starry banner float now-a-days? Over a nation of freemen? Nominally it does, but in fact it does not.

Workingmen declare that they are not free men, if their employers may, with or without law, hire Pinkerton thugs, arm them with rifles and order them to shoot down workingmen like dogs without provocation. These infernal cut-throats, these vagabonds, from the slums, these hired outcasts constitute a military force unknown to the state, and yet workingmen have been unable, except in a few instances, to strike down the murderous policy of some railroad corporations which employ the thugs.

We confess that in all our readings of savage and barbarian methods we have found nothing more essentially devilish, more infernal in all regards, than the employment of Pinkerton outlaws to murder workingmen at the behest of a corporation.

We talk glibly of lands cursed by autocrats and aristocrats, and exclaim, "Behold our declaration of independence! Behold our flag! Remember Bunker Hill and Yorktown! Contemplate the territorial grandeur of our republic!" And in our rapture we contemplate the luminous track of glory, permanent and bright, made by our fathers, to which we love to refer; but as one beholds an armed gang of Pinkerton murderers ready to kill railroad men under orders from a railroad corporation, does not his blood run cold in his veins? And when men who make laws are appealed to to end the infamy by enacting a law forbidding its continuance, and are given to understand that it will not be done, what, if any, is the remedy?

Is it longer wise to continue in affiliation with any party that thus rudely and contemptuously thrusts us aside? Is it not wise to form an alliance with some party that is pledged to reform abuses so glaring that Satan himself would be unable to frame an excuse for their continuance?

Is it not of the highest importance that railroad employees should give special prominence to the "co-employee" inquiry?

It is scarcely required to offer a word in outlining its measureless injustice, and that it should be incorporated into American jurisprudence staggers belief. Railroad men fully comprehend the wrongs it inflicts.

What is the demand? It is not to repeal statutes by virtue of which tests is wrong, scarcely less than a crime, exists, but to enact a law which shall at once and forever strike from the records of the courts the damning evidence

that with all our boasting we are living under decisions based upon neither law nor testimony, but which as effectively blast the rights of workingmen as if it were written in our constitutions that railroad employees are serfs or chattel slaves, who have no rights which courts are bound to respect.

Who, of all the wise men in America, possessed of hearts and whose sensibilities are not dead beyond the reach of hope, are not horrified almost daily by the records of the maimed and killed employees of railroads?

By the rulings of the courts, based upon no law, except that nondescript thing called the "common law," handed down from the time when the employer was master and the workingman a slave, neither a workingman nor his heirs, having a claim against a railroad corporation for damages, have any more standing in court than an African slave in "old plantation times." The courts show them no consideration whatever, provided it is shown that he was maimed or killed by the negligence or ignorance of a co-employee, though in the employment of the co-employee he had no more voice than a man who died before the flood—and the corporation is usually prepared to show that a co-employee was the cause of the injury.

In one or two states, perhaps, the injury has been wiped out. Why not in every state? Simply because the corporation has demanded that it should stand.

The corporation is always on hand when a legislature meets. Its agents find out who are the base-born, degenerate creatures who represent themselves; they find out the price of those men who are known to be "for rent" or "for sale" and paying their price, own them.

Some of them sell cheap, others demand round sums, but the average is never large and the political mendicants are easily fixed, and in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the railroad employee is compelled to accept defeat.

All of this leads to the inquiry: What are the railroad employees going to do about it? Will they accept defeat forever and a day? Are they so wedded to their claims that they will never make a freeman's effort to break them?

The old parties call them by what name we may, have been tried, and their promises have been broken as often as they have been made. The corporation has won in nearly every instance. Is it worth while to trust them further? Does not every consideration of justice, right, truth, independence and the supreme importance of the interests at stake, demand a change of policy?

There has come to the front within a recent period a new party, as we have said—the people's party. It proposes certain reforms, some of which, at least, are of a character that command widespread approval.

We are not required to print the platform of the people's party, nor to indorse all of the propositions it contains. We are not required to so much as suggest that all railroad employees should become identified with and active workers in the people's party; but the question arises, wherein does the people's party antagonize any demands of railroad employees? In what plank of its platform is to be found hostility to the interests of labor?

In response, it will doubtless be said in some quarters that the people's party has evinced hostility to railroads, and because of this unfriendliness the interests of railroad employees are jeopardized.

The question arises, in what is the people's party unfriendly to railroads? In discussing such a proposition let us be frank.

The people's party expresses the opinion that the water in railroad stock should be squeezed out; that railroads should do business on honest investments and not upon a basis of fraud, and that they can afford to so reduce rates of transportation for persons and freights as to make them what they were designed to be, a blessing to the country.

Railroad corporations at once set about to defeat such legislation, and at this juncture comes into view strategic movements on the part of railroad corporations of astounding audacity.

In the first place, the corporations say to the states: "If you reduce rates we will reduce the number of trains." This reduction of the number of trains is to operate in the way of a penalty upon the sovereignty of the people, the sovereignty by virtue of which the corporation exists.

In the next place, the corporation prepares petitions to be presented to legislatures, requiring their employees to sign them, under a threat, direct or implied, that their wages depend upon their compliance.

In addition to this, the corporation, having immense facilities at hand, send forth their henchmen to organize their employees into clubs for the express purpose of antagonizing the farmers, the Farmers' Alliance and the people's party, to the extent that such legislation as the farmers demand shall not be had.

In view of these strategic movements how stands the case with railroad employees who demand, and ought to have, certain important laws enacted for their protection?

If railroad employees antagonize the farmers, what more natural than that the farmers should reciprocate this hostility? Throughout the middle, southern and western states the farmers, if united, will dictate legislation. That they will unite is a logical conclusion, because everywhere their interests are practically identical.

It is urged by some that the policy mapped out by the farmers is impracticable, that they are the victims of vagaries. But is it not said in certain quarters that workingmen are "the enemies of capital?" and that when they strike for their rights or against wrongs that they "become the enemies of society and constitute a dangerous element?" and are not corporations ceaselessly devising schemes by which they hope to disrupt and destroy labor organizations?

But such discussions are foreign to the purpose of this article, and, returning from any seeming digression, we ask, what are the advantages railroad employees expect to gain by antagonizing the farmers or the Farmers' Alliance?

Is it believed if railroad employees succeed in defeating the farmers that the corporation will aid them in crushing out the Pinkerton infamy? Do railroad employees, those engaged in the train service, so much as dream that the corporation will, when the farmers are defeated, demand of legislatures that the co-employee inquiry shall come away with?

If workingmen propose to sing "Hail Columbia, happy land," in earnest, then they must add "Let independence be our boast. Ever mindful what it cost."

The time has come, as in the far away days of the Israelites when idol worship was making and idols upon the spineless sons of the chosen people—when Baal had four hundred prophets and God only one, Elijah, who said: "How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him; but if Baal, follow him." And now, if the corporation be the railroad employees' god, let them follow it and do its bidding, but if their own independence and self-respect, their liberty and citizenship combined, is preferable, then by all the gods let them assert themselves, be true to themselves, though the furnace of their afflictions be heated by the plutocratic Nebuchadnezzars seventy times hotter than when cremated martyrs of the past demonstrated that their courage was equal to their convictions.—*Eugene V. Debs, in Locomotive Firemen's Magazine*.

PERTINENT POINTS.

A Few Inquiries on the Railroad Question—Who Will Answer?

Would it not be well for railroad employees to seriously address themselves to an earnest, honest consideration of the following questions:

1st. Is there any existing relationship between railroad earnings and wages paid railroad employees?

2d. If yes, how does such relationship manifest itself?

3d. Are wages raised as earnings increase?

4th. What becomes of the nearly four hundred millions of dollars realized by the railroad corporations after the payment of all operating expenses, including wages?

5th. What per cent of profit do the railroad companies realize, if such profits be calculated upon actual cost of construction and equipment?

6th. Could not the federation of railroad employees maintain their scale of wages, even if such profits were reduced?

7th. Would not such reduction of profits benefit railroad employees equally with all other classes?

8th. Are the interests of railroad corporations and their employees identical?

9th. Must employees rob themselves in order that their employers may be able to pay their wages?

10th. Have railroads in the past employed any more men than they necessarily had to have?

11th. Can they do any less than that in the future?—*George C. Ward, in Locomotive Firemen's Magazine*.

INFORMATION ASKED FOR.

If Prohibition is the Paramount Issue Where Do the Few That Own All the Wealth Get Their Money?

I notice that the Kansas conference of the Methodist church, in the course of its proceedings, passed certain resolutions, in the body of which occurs the following statement, or sentence:

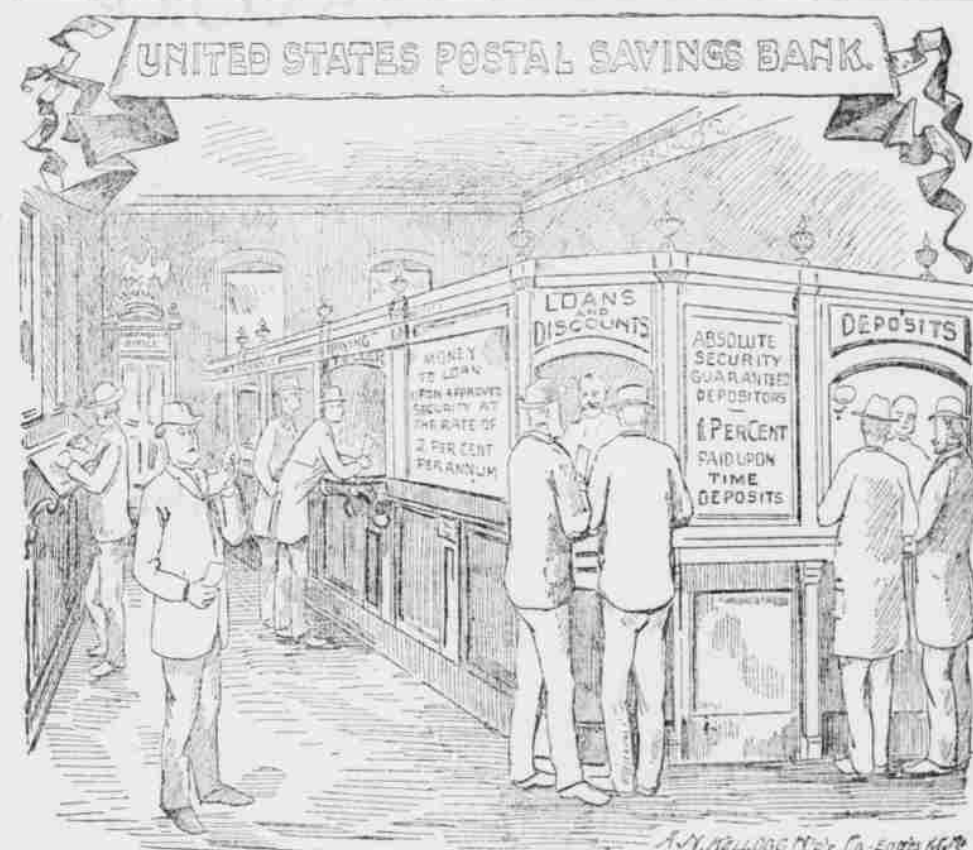
"We emphatically declare our profound conviction that the question of the extinction of the saloon is the paramount question challenging the attention of the American statesman. Other issues over which parties contend are destitute of moral principle and but like prating concerning mist, smoke and cumm, while this involves the weightier matter of the law, justice, truth, mercy and righteousness."

I also note the fact that in North Dakota, at the annual state prohibition convention, the members of the Farmers' Alliance and kindred organizations withdrew in a body from such convention rather than indorse and assent to virtually the same proposition, or statement, to-wit: That the prohibition of the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors is the paramount issue before the American people!

I am lost in amazement at the supreme ridiculousness and farcical comicality of this effort to thus force sober, industrious men to believe that the liquor traffic is the cause of their impoverishment and failure in business. Mr. Editor, 31,000 individuals own \$35,000,000,000, or three-fifths of the total wealth of the nation. Will some ardent prohibitionist, who indorses the above remarkable resolution, please state how many of these individuals obtained their money by trafficking in intoxicating liquor?—*George C. Ward, in Topeka Advocate*.

—The men who have tried and are trying to build up a labor press are entitled to the fullest support of organized labor. It has been proven that they are willing to serve the cause for a bare living. They know full well the power of the press and will make their now struggling papers great daily defenders of the cause of organized labor as soon as the members of our unions give them their sympathy and support. Instead of carping criticism and a disposition to tear down, the same zeal should be shown in trying to build up. The true test of a man's sincerity and worth in the labor movement is his desire and ability to build it up. A fool can tear down.—*Midland Mechanic*.

—The gentlemen opposed to the free coinage of silver say that the silver in a dollar is produced for forty-one cents. Suppose it is so. What of that? The Homestake Mining Co., of the Black Hills, the largest producer of gold in the world, has its business so systematized that every ton of ore mined averages \$5 at a cost of \$1.61. So one dollar of gold costs thirty-two cents. Take off your government fiat and which would be worth the more—gold costing thirty-two cents or silver costing forty-one cents?—*Exchange*.



A FEATURE OF THE PLATFORM.

We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and to facilitate exchange.—*St. Louis Demands, Feb. 22, 1892.*

army and whip each part separately. The money power undertook to follow the same tactics and keep the laborers of the city and the country fighting each other, but the scheme fell through, as all the laboring classes have learned that their interests are the same.—*Exchange*.

—The silver men are having a lively time in Washington. New England members of the house are fighting free silver with a vim. They say it will "cause business men to lose confidence." The farmers have already lost confidence. The question is: Can a few boodie business men boss the country, or shall the great masses?—*Progressive Farmer*.

—Some earnest advocates of free coinage are becoming considerably angered at the conduct of Mr. M. D. Harter. This is all wrong. Mr. Harter is doing better service for the success of the bill than any five men who are advocating its passage. His opposition is so venomous and his methods so unfair as to rouse a spirit of distrust of his motives.—*National Economist*.

—Addressing an appeal for justice to a man who is the direct beneficiary of the oppression that is destroying you, is nonsense and folly. Work with those who are similarly situated and whose interests are identical with yours. Every producer and laborer in this country has the same interest, and the same hope for relief, and they must pull together if they would succeed.—*Alliance Herald*.

—Chicago papers say there are 30,000 idle laborers in that city. A non-union man told us that 30,000 would be nearer right, and that all were willing to work at anything to keep from starving. The authorities are at a loss to know what to do about it. Unless there is a change in the monetary system the army of tramps and paupers will quadruple itself before another year.—*Pittsfield (Ill.) Advocate*.

—With some gold-bug be kind enough to explain just how the silver miner can reap a profit of twenty-five per cent by the coinage of his silver bullion into dollars, and the people a loss of twenty-five per cent in receiving those same dollars for their labor or products? This is a dark subject upon which many people would like to see a little light reflected from some of our brilliant financial luminaries.—*Advocate*.

—The politicians are mad because the alliance does not confine its business to the scientific principles involved in feeding hogs, growing pumpkins and corn shucking. It is practical. It means business. It is going to the root of the disease. It is meddling in politics, taking a hand in the caucus and the convention, thinking and voting and killing more politicians than you can shake a stick at, and that hurts. That's why they squeal.—*Commerce Journal*.

convention should plant itself squarely on the St. Louis platform without as much as the dotting of an i or the crossing of a t. Let us make the campaign on the issues presented, and await another campaign for such changes as future discussion and experience may suggest.

Some other questions may be embodied in our state platforms, which all sections of the country are not yet ready for. Complete revolutions in public sentiment cannot be manufactured in a moment. They are the result of education and of gradual growth, and the men who have attained an advanced position in this educational growth must not wreck the entire movement simply because all other men have not yet attained to their standard. Let such men take their position upon the hill tops and hold aloft the beacon lights which will guide the multitudes up higher; but do not let them carry the lights so far up into the clouds that the multitudes will lose sight of them altogether. Wait a while until those in the rear of the procession have a little time to catch up. Let us have no more planks in the national platform this year.—*Topeka Advocate*.

A Dead Letter.

The Chicago Tribune, by means of a special agent sent out to investigate the workings of the inter-state commerce law in the states of Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Minnesota and Kansas, has confirmed what has all along been suspected, viz: that the railroads have been and are shamelessly violating that law in these states by discriminating in favor of large shippers—giving them better rates than are given to small shippers, and by giving these large shippers cash rebates; also by discriminating in favor of certain localities and against others. The mass of evidence which the Tribune produces to prove these facts is simply incontrovertible and overwhelming, and is proof conclusive that the law is defied at will by railway managers, and is hence a dead letter. Favoritism, discrimination and outrage are thus practiced upon the small shippers, and certain localities and great commercial interests are built up at the expense and to the positive injury of others.—*Atchison Champion*.

—Recently the anthracite coal owners met in New York and agreed to advance the price of anthracite coal twenty-five cents per ton. They also decided that if the cold weather continued the price would be still further advanced. What was that cranky idea they had some hundred years ago about taxation without representation being robbery?—*Journal of Knights of Labor*.

—The membership of the Knights of Labor has increased twenty-five per cent since the general assembly met at Toledo, O., a few months ago.

wealth to oppress labor, and the financial legislation of the last thirty years has been directed to this very point, to make "the dollar buy more than it ever would before." That is why every effort to increase the circulation is resisted by the plutocratic parties and press, and is also the very reason why the hosts of productive labor should unite as one man to secure a fair remuneration for the products of labor. It can only be done by a change of financial system.

Don't let the plutocrats make you believe that this much-purchasing dollar is as good for you as it is for anyone else, for when you sell more labor and products to get it than ever you did before, it will not pay you one cent more of debt, interest and taxes than did the dollar you once got for half as much labor. Besides, if you lay up anything for the rainy day, or for old age, you can lay up only of your surplus profits. How can you expect surplus profits when the "dollar will buy more of your work than ever it did before?" You'll have no surplus profits, and you'll lay up nothing, you'll not even get out of debt only as you are sold out, while this condition of things continues.—*Mt. Vernon (Ill.) Progressive Farmer*.

A Silencing Retort.

Mr. Simpson during the tariff debate flouted Ray, of New York, who had the floor for the republicans. In answer to a proper question which Mr. Ray had granted Mr. Simpson permission to ask, Ray said:

"To such a foolish question, if I were disposed to sneer at the alliance member, I would retort by asking, 'Was your grandmother a monkey?'"

"And if you did," retorted Simpson "I should answer as Dumas did the French captain, by saying, 'Yes, sir; my family began where yours leaves off.'"

—If the tariff is to be the issue will some advocate of a properly regulated tariff state how many mortgages it will lift, how much it will stop the robbery of trusts, syndicates and combines and how many people it will redeem from debt who shall sell their products at cost of production on account of the scarcity of money?—*Alliance Herald*.

—The worst kind of a partisan is the one who under the right of non-partisan organization shows on every opportunity the most intense old-party bigotry. The true non-partisan throws all parties to the dogs and says: Here are my demands. The party that supports me will get my support.—*Nonconformist*.

—The democrats of Georgia are now about in the same fix the republicans of Kansas were two years ago. When they make a call for a county central committee to meet they find that nearly all the committee has joined the people's party.—*Oberlin (Kan.) Herald*.